

The State of New Hampshire

Mailing Address

State House Room 204
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-4989
Telephone (603) 271-1463
Facsimile (603) 271-7933



Location

State House Annex
25 Capitol St.
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Department of State Bureau of Securities Regulation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Scott Kirby
Communications Director
(603) 271-6837

SECURITIES BUREAU URGES SENIOR INVESTORS TO BE AWARE OF SCAMS

BUREAU CITES 10 PROTECTIVE MEASURES

CONCORD, NH (April 18, 2007) - As part of its ongoing investor education effort, the New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation urged the state's senior investors to remain on the lookout for unscrupulous sales people and scam artists. Bureau Director, Mark Connolly, said that seniors remain a target here in New Hampshire and nationally, and should be cautious, especially when solicited over the telephone by people unfamiliar to them. "Statistics show that nationally seniors represent about 15% of the population, yet they are involved in nearly one-third of the fraud cases reported, and New Hampshire's statistics confirm this trend," said Connolly.

"In addition, on average, half of all investor complaints are filed by seniors. This illustrates to us that the nation's over-60 population remains a scam target," said Connolly.

In view of this, the Bureau is providing the following investor safety tips, and encourage people to contact us with their questions, or to report any suspicious activities they might encounter.

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TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Seniors: Top Ten Ways to Protect Your Nest Egg

1. DON'T BE A "COURTESY VICTIM" Con artists and individuals who are targeting you and your nest egg, will exploit your good manners. Save your courtesy for family and friends, not for someone who is aggressively pressuring you. Although most brokers and financial advisors are ethical professionals, be on the lookout for pushy sales people or scam artists.

2. CHECK OUT STRANGERS TOUTING DEALS Trusting someone who is an accomplished salesperson is easy to do, especially when they promise you a high, risk free return of your money! Keep in mind that many financial sales professionals are paid through fees and commissions and it's important to ask how they are compensated. Definitely say "no" if any salesperson presses you for a quick response or becomes overly aggressive. You need an opportunity to check out the salesperson, the firm and the investment itself. Extensive information is available through the NASD as well as through the New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation. Always check first.

3. ALWAYS BE IN CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY It is your money! Understand and research where it is being invested. Beware of anyone who suggests that investing your money is complicated or urges you to leave everything in his/her hands. Understand what you are buying.

4. DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER Successful con artists may sound and look extremely professional and have the ability to make even the flimsiest investment sound safe and risk free. The personality or appearance of the salesperson has no bearing on the soundness of the investment. In addition, certain salespeople call themselves "senior specialists" or other designations indicating specialized training. Prior to doing business with a salesperson, you should inquire and understand how they achieved the

special senior designation and verify licensing with the NASD or the New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation.

5. WATCH OUT FOR SALESPeOPLE WHO PRAY UPON FEAR Con artists know that you worry about either outliving your savings or seeing all your financial resources vanish overnight as the result of a significant event, such as a critical illness. Don't let salespersons use fear to cloud your judgment!

6. DON'T MAKE A TRAGEDY WORSE BY MAKING HASTY DECISIONS The hospitalization or death of a spouse has many sad consequences. Don't make financial fraud one of them. If you are thrust into handling your own or your family's financial affairs, get all the facts and don't make hasty decisions. Scam artists target recent widows or widowers as "ideal victims." Local libraries and colleges may offer courses or information on investing and handling money. You may also want to contact trusted relatives and friends or the New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation. We can provide assistance and educational materials or check an investment professional's registration status and background.

Insurance proceeds may also make you a prime target. Arm yourself with information and increase your confidence. Don't rush into any investments!

7. MONITOR YOUR INVESTMENTS AND ASK TOUGH QUESTIONS Don't compound a mistake by not monitoring your investments. Keep a close eye on them by reviewing statements and asking questions. Particularly when values move quickly or there appears to be excessive or unauthorized trading (churning) in your accounts. Don't let trust or friendship prevent you from maintaining a healthy dose of skepticism!

8. LOOK FOR TROUBLE RETRIEVING YOUR PRINCIPAL OR PROFITS If your stockbroker or financial planner, or other individual with whom you have invested,

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stalls you when you want to withdraw some of your principal or profits, you may have a serious problem or uncovered someone who is cheating you. Some legitimate investments do have restrictions on withdrawal which may not be allowed for a period of time. However, you should have been aware of this. If you encounter a problem withdrawing principal contact the New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation immediately.

9. DON'T LET FEAR OR EMBARRASSMENT STOP YOU FROM REPORTING

FRAUD OR ABUSE Professional con artists know many victims hesitate to report potential fraud or abuse to authorities for fear of embarrassment. We have seen the brightest and most educated of citizens fall prey to these pros, so one should never be afraid to tell family, friends or the authorities. Unscrupulous salespeople and scammers rely on this delay to hide their activity, commit fraud on others or to spend your money. Do not delay reporting potential fraud or financial abuse.

10. BEWARE OF RELOAD SCHEMES If you are the victim of an investment scam, don't compound the problem by letting the con artist take more of your assets. Faced with a loss of money, some investors have been convinced to go along with another scheme to "make up for losses!" Your desire to make up for lost money is understandable but frequently additional losses result.

The Bureau of Securities Regulation can be reached through the special Investor Hotline 1 800 994-4200 which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may also contact the Bureau at its website www.securities@sos.nh.gov.

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